

Washington, DC - Congressman Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) participated today in a Congressional hearing on the BP oil spill in the Gulf Coast. The hearing, entitled "Local Impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill," examined the effects of the disaster on communities and the environment in the Gulf Coast region.

Members heard testimonies from witnesses including the wives of two men killed on the Deepwater Horizon rig, the President of the Institute of Marine Mammal Services, Vice President of the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce, and an oyster and shrimp fisherman who lost everything in Hurricane Katrina.

"I'd like to thank the witnesses who testified today and express my sincere condolences to the women who lost their husbands in this tragic accident," Braley said. "The witnesses' heartfelt testimonies today are a harsh reminder that we need to remain vigilant in enforcing workplace safety regulations and of the role Congress must play in holding BP accountable.

"The livelihoods of local workers and families have been jeopardized and those responsible for the spill must fairly compensate those affected. It's important that we use this incident as a lesson to ensure this type of disaster does not occur again."

After the hearing, Braley flew over the well site with the United States Coast Guard and viewed the impacted areas from above.